Utilisation of air service agreements by IA and AI

2895. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air service agreements that India have with other countries;

(b) the details of air service agreements utilised by IA and AI;

(c) whether it is a fact that India is allowing some of the private airlines to fly to international destinations; and

(d) if so, the details of private airlines allowed to fly overseas and details of destinations to which they are allowed to fly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, India has Air Services Agreements with 100 foreign countries.

(b) Air India and Indian Airlines are utilising traffic rights under Air Services Agreements with UK, USA, France, Germany, Canada, Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, China, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Kenya, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan.

(c) and (d) As part of liberalization policy and to improve the utilisation of traffic rights by the Indian side, Government has decided to permit private scheduled airlines having coutinuous 5 year experience in domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft to operate on international routes except to UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In accordance with this decision, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines have been permitted to operate on international routes to operate to UK, USA, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore and Belgium.

Setting up a full-fledged Department of Aeronautics

2896. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a full-fledged Department of Aeronautics to be over seen by Aeronautics Commission to evolve policy develop framework for varied aeronautical endeavours and to implement